



ISABELLE DU TOIT

Vivarium

Sept 10 - Oct 24

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September 10 - October 24, 2026

Cris Worley is proud to announce a new exhibition of oil paintings by Isabelle du Toit, entitled *Vivarium*. This year marks the 25th year that Worley and du Toit have worked together. There will be an opening reception on Thursday, September 10, from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibition will be on view through October 24.

In *Vivarium*, Isabelle du Toit creates an imagined world in which animals, insects, and other living creatures become stand-ins for larger questions about difference, belonging, vulnerability, and coexistence. The exhibition takes its title from the Latin *vivus*, meaning “alive,” and from the enclosed environments designed to sustain and observe living things. For du Toit, the vivarium becomes both a metaphor and a point of departure: a contained world in which diverse forms of life exist alongside one another, each dependent on conditions that can be easily altered or disrupted.

Rendered with extraordinary precision in oil, du Toit’s birds, mammals, and insects emerge from deep, often stark fields of color. Her characteristic attention to the individual—every feather, hair, wing, and surface carefully observed—gives her subjects a heightened presence. At the same time, the theatrical isolation of these creatures creates a sense of fragility and exposure. They are beautiful and self-contained, yet never entirely free from the possibility of human’s encroachment.

Having lived between countries and cultures, du Toit brings a personal understanding of what it means to exist both inside and outside a particular place. In *Vivarium*, she considers belonging not as a matter of sameness, but as the possibility of difference existing without exclusion. By looking at the human world through the lives of animals, she quietly questions our tendency to categorize, separate, and determine who (or what) belongs.

The world of *Vivarium* is at once shelter and warning. It is a place where the fragile, the unusual, and the beautiful coexist, but where that balance is never guaranteed. Deeply engaged with questions of wildlife conservation and the impact of human activity on natural ecosystems, du Toit reminds us that diversity is not merely something to be admired from a distance, but something that requires care.

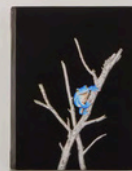
Ultimately, *Vivarium* proposes a more expansive understanding of coexistence—one rooted in curiosity, compassion, and our responsibility to protect the extraordinary variety of life around us. As du Toit suggests, nature may offer one of our clearest models for imagining a better world.



Isabelle du Toit, *Blue Tree Frog in Branches (Hope series)*, 2026, oil on canvas, 12h x 9w in, detail



Isabelle du Toit, *Vivarium*, installation view







Isabelle du Toit

Blue Familiar, 2026

oil on canvas

24h x 24w in

IDT156

\$9,600

SOLD

Isabelle du Toit,
Vivarium,
installation view





Isabelle du Toit

*Blue Mouse on Branch (Hope
series), 2026*

oil on canvas

9h x 12w in

IDT164

\$3,900

SOLD

Isabelle du Toit,
Vivarium,
installation view





Isabelle du Toit, *Blue Tree Frog in Branches (Hope series)*, 2026, oil on canvas, 12h x 9w in, detail

Isabelle du Toit

*Blue Tree Frog in Branches (Hope
series), 2026*
oil on canvas
12h x 9w in
IDT165
\$3,900





Isabelle du Toit,
Vivarium,
installation view



Isabelle du Toit, *Vivarium*, installation view







Isabelle du Toit

Shelter, 2026

oil on canvas

30h x 24w in

IDT158

\$10,800



Isabelle du Toit
Prairie Dog, 2026
oil on canvas
16h x 20w in
IDT157
\$8,500





Isabelle du Toit,
Vivarium,
installation view



Isabelle du Toit, *Arc-en-ciel (rainbow)*, 2026, oil on canvas, 30h x 40w in, detail

Isabelle du Toit
Arc-en-ciel (rainbow), 2026
oil on canvas
30h x 40w in
IDT155
\$18,000





Isabelle du Toit,
Vivarium,
installation view





Isabelle du Toit, *Burrow Buddies*, 2026, oil on canvas, 16h x 20w in, detail



Isabelle du Toit
Burrow Buddies, 2026
oil on canvas
16h x 20w in
IDT163
\$8,500

Isabelle du Toit,
Vivarium,
installation view





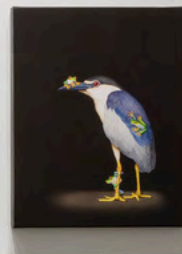
Isabelle du Toit, *Amanitas and Strawberry Finches*, 2026, oil on canvas, 16h x 20w in, detail

Isabelle du Toit
Amanitas and Strawberry
Finches, 2026
oil on canvas
16h x 20w in
IDT154
\$8,500





Isabelle du Toit,
Vivarium,
installation view





Isabelle du Toit, *Blue Gathering*, 2026, oil on canvas, 9h x 12w in, detail

Isabelle du Toit
Blue Gathering, 2026
oil on canvas
9h x 12w in
IDT160
\$3,900





Isabelle du Toit, *Green Gathering*, 2026, oil on canvas, 9h x 12w in, detail



Isabelle du Toit
Green Gathering, 2026
oil on canvas
9h x 12w in
IDT162
\$3,900



Isabelle du Toit, *Yellow Gathering*, 2026, oil on canvas, 9h x 12w in, detail

Isabelle du Toit
Yellow Gathering, 2026
oil on canvas
9h x 12w in
IDT159
\$3,900



Isabelle du Toit,
Vivarium,
installation view





Isabelle du Toit, *Night Heron*, 2025, oil on canvas, 20h x 16w in, detail



Isabelle du Toit
Night Heron, 2025
oil on canvas
20h x 16w in
IDT139
\$8,500

Isabelle du Toit,
Vivarium,
installation view





Isabelle du Toit, *Vivarium*, installation view





Isabelle du Toit
Mouse in Branch, 2024
oil on canvas
12h x 16w in
IDT110
\$6,500



Isabelle du Toit
Snail and Amanita, 2024
oil on canvas
9h x 12w in
IDT115
\$3,900



Isabelle du Toit,
Vivarium,
installation view



Isabelle du Toit - b. 1972

Deeply involved in wildlife conservation, Isabelle du Toit explores a narrative based on our manmade world of today and how it has affected the stability of an ecosystem that existed long before it. Her finely detailed oil paintings of birds, insects, and mammals found on stark, deep backgrounds that enhance the isolation and the loneliness of these creatures. The ever-present spotlight on her subjects both illuminates the beauty of every feather and hair's detail, yet simultaneously alludes to an impending sense of encroachment.

Isabelle du Toit was born in Strasbourg, France and moved to South Africa with her family as a teenager. There, she received a Bachelor of Fine Art in Printmaking from Nelson Mandela University. She moved to Texas in the mid-1990s where she lived and worked for over 10 years and now resides with her husband on the coast in South Florida. In 2016 and 2020 the artist was a finalist in the BP Portrait Competition. Du Toit's work has exhibited nationally in Texas, California, Chicago, New York, Colorado, Seattle, and Florida, among others. Internationally, her work has been shown in London and Panama City, Panama.

